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5/16/2967/1

27 June 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

THROUGH : Chief, Far East Division

SUBJECT : The Montagnard Problem in South Vietnam

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25X1A9a1. Attached you will find two papers prepared by [REDACTED] of my Staff concerning the Montagnard problem in South Vietnam. The longer report is an excellently researched piece of historical analysis which I believe will be of specific interest and value to officials in and out of the Agency, both in Washington and Saigon, who will find it definitive and authoritative in analyzing the complex of issues and interests which constitute the Montagnard problem. This longer report is prefaced by a "Summary and Conclusions", which contains a brief but clear exposition of the issues and their historical and present-day context, and which offers certain conclusions which would be valuable as a basis of common U.S. understanding of the intricacies of the Montagnard problem. Also, certain action suggestions are offered in this portion.

2. The conclusions derived and the suggestions offered are of such a nature as to indicate referral to the Department of State for review and adoption, followed by referral to the U.S. Mission in Saigon for similar review and adoption. That accomplished, a basis of understanding would have been created which could, hopefully, eliminate the confusing effects of differing U.S. viewpoints and interpretations re the Montagnard problem being placed on future events and developments in that area.

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3. [REDACTED] may wish to comment on the "Summary and Conclusions" as well as on the contents of this memorandum. Assuming no major difference of views, I would suggest that this study and Summary be referred to the [REDACTED] for an endorsement and referral to the U.S. Mission in Saigon, for adoption as presented or as they may feel it

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necessary to modify. Should the Department of State agree with our
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[REDACTED] there is no objection
from this Staff.

4. Both papers have been prepared for publication by Printing
Services. Your suggestions on the distribution of both papers would be
appreciated.

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[REDACTED]
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachments

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